

THE STORY FOR CHILDREN

The Story For Children devotionals are broken up into three days. Each day has something to read together, do together, think about together, and pray together with your children. These times together with your family will help your children understand and live out The Story of God's Word!

Chapter 3 – Joseph from Slave to Deputy Pharaoh Day One – Choose God

Today's reading: Pages 36-37

This reading covers: Genesis 37-41

Summary: I can choose to follow God no matter what.

Do together: Blindfold two family members. Have the older lead the younger from room to room for a minute or two. Try to give everyone a turn being led or leading, being careful to watch for impending danger as they walk around without sight. After a few minutes, remove the blindfold from one of the leaders, and allow that one to see as they lead the other.

Afterwards talk about which was easier, leading blind or leading sighted. Talk about which seemed safer and more secure, being led by a blind person or led by a sighted person.

Think about: God's eyes can always see. He is never unsure of where he is going. He never trips and falls, he never bumps into anything. He is never confused or disoriented. He never takes us somewhere and lets us go so that we are by ourselves to find our own way. If we want God to be our leader, what does that mean we have to do?

Also read: Deuteronomy 30:19-20

Prayer: Thank you, God, that you are the only leader we could ever have that will not let go of our hand, no matter what. Thank you that you will not bump into anything or fall down. We know we can always be safe if you are holding our hand. Please help us to not let go of you, and to let you lead us every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 3 – Joseph from Slave to Deputy Pharaoh Day Two – God’s Care

Today’s reading: 38-41

This reading covers: Genesis 42-49

Summary: God is taking care of me, even when I don’t know it.

Do together: Play the game called “Guess Who”

With each question, the child answers with one or more of the following people: MOM-DAD-TEACHER-DOCTOR-GOD

- Who makes sure you have shoes to wear?
- Who makes sure you are learning what you need to learn?
- Who makes sure you get the right medicine when sick?
- Who makes sure you have some surprises sometimes?
- Who takes care of all the people who take care of you?

Think about: God takes care of all of us, even though we cannot see him or hear him. He takes care of the people who take care of us. So really, it is God who makes sure we have all of the things we need. He is taking care of us even when we don’t see him. Let’s thank him for that.

Also read: Psalm 65

Prayer: You make sure we have everything we need. You take care of us by taking care of the people who love us. You take care of us by giving us good things. Help us to remember that everything you do for us is for our good. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Chapter 3 – Joseph from Slave to Deputy Pharaoh Day Three – God’s Plan

Today’s reading: page 42-47

This reading covers: Genesis 50

Summary: God is working, even when I don’t see him

Do together: Prior to the activity, plan a special surprise for the family. Buy some special cookies at the store and hide them, or bake some brownies that no one can see until you are ready. When you’re ready, announce that you have a big surprise. Bring out all the goodies and tell everyone that you have been planning this special time, even though no one knew it.

Think about: What kind of surprise did Joseph’s brothers have in our story? They found out that Pharaoh’s helper was the brother they did not like. They had not seen him for a long time and he looked very different.

As you enjoy the spontaneous celebration, tell the children that you are celebrating the fact that God is also behind the scenes, planning special things in their lives. In the story, God was working out the plan for Joseph and his brothers to be together again. And none of them knew it!

Also read: James 1:17, Jeremiah 29:11

Prayer: God, we know that you have a special plan for each one of our lives. We know that sometimes we can’t see the plans that you are working on, but we do know that your plans are always for our best. Help us to trust you to do what is best for us all the time. In Jesus’ name, Amen.